

Fully Equipped

“Let’s Break through the Chains that Bind Us”

I. SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:11a, 12-13 TNIV – “So Christ [MASHIACH] Himself *gave ...* to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ [MASHIACH] may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God [ELOHIYM] and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ [MASHIACH].”

II. TO BE FULLY UTILIZED, ONE MUST FIRST BECOME FULLY EQUIPPED

Last week’s message title was “Fully Utilized”. We focused on YAHUSHA [Jesus], who was fully utilized, fully sacrificed for us so that one day soon we might see Him face-to-face. Yes, last week we learned that our MESSIAH [Christ] set His mind on being fully utilized for us as He dragged the cross with Him to Calvary, upon which and where He would be mercilessly nailed and suffer the worst kind to death. Any why did he do this? It was because His Father, our Father so “loved” us, that He gave Him – His only begotten Son – that if we believe in Him, we should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). And, YAHUSHA wants this exact same love, His love to be in us as it was in Him. YAHUSHA [Jesus] chose to do His Father’s will, and not seek His own will in the Garden of Gethsemane, as He chose to sacrifice Himself, to be fully utilized for us, so that one day we would “behold His glory which the Father has given to Him” (John 17:24)

We learned last week that today, you and I are to live our lives as YAHUSHA [Jesus] lived His life for us... so that we please our Father Who is in heaven... so that His will is done [and not our own, done] on earth as [it is done] in heaven. And what does that look like exactly? It looks like the picture that YAHUSHA [Jesus] painted for His disciples when He “said to them, [that] ‘**if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny [themselves], and take up [their] cross, and follow Me. For [if we] desire to save [our] lives, [then we] will lose them, but whoever loses [their] life for His sake will find them. For what profit is it to a [person] if [they] gains the whole world, and lose [their] own soul? Or what will a [person] give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to [their] works.**” (Matt. 16:24-27) So, YAHUSHA [Jesus] wants you to be fully utilized by His Father, our Father, as He was fully utilized Him.

But... in order for us to be fully utilized, we must first become fully equipped, wouldn't you say. Please notice that in today's scripture that the written word from Paul to the Ephesians starts out with the word *give*: "So Christ [MASHIACH] Himself *gave...*" And why did He *give*? He gave Himself "to *equip* His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ [MASHIACH] may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God [ELOHIYM] and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ [MASHIACH]."

III. HOW TO PREPARE YOURSELF, TO BREAK YOUR CHAINS & BE FULLY EQUIPPED

1. STEP 1: GET TO KNOW YAHUSHA [Jesus] SO YOU'LL STOP SINNING

The Apostle John writes: "my little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Jesus Christ] The Righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

My brothers & sisters, "do you know YAHUSHA [Jesus]?" "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of YAHUAH [God] is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." (1 John 2:1-6) For, "if anyone desires to come after [YAHUSHA (Jesus)], let [them] deny [themselves] and take up their cross, and follow [Him] (Matt. 16:24).

2. STEP 2: LOVE & FORGIVE EACH OTHER SO YOUR STEPS FORWARD WILL BE SECURE

"He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. She who loves her sister abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in her. But he [or she] who hates his [or her] brother [or sister], is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where [they are] going, because the darkness has blinded [their] eyes." (1 John 2:9-11) (Forgive others so you can be forgiven, and pray for your enemies.)

3. STEP 3: HATE THE THINGS OF THE WORLD SO YOUR EYES WILL TURN TO HEAVEN

YAHUSHA [Jesus] says that "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21).

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If [you] love the world, the love of the Father is not in [you]. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of YAHUAH [God] abides forever. (1 John 2: 15-17)

“And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, YAHUAH [God] is greater than our heart, and knows all things. [So,] beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward ELOHIYM [God]. And [then], whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son YAHUSHA HA'MQASHIACH [Jesus Christ] and love one another, as He gave us commandment. [And so] now [they] who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in [them]. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the RUACH [Spirit] whom He has given us. (1 John 3:19-24)

Brothers and sister, did you catch that? That if your heart is right before YAHUAH [God], Who knows all things, that you can have confidence toward ELOHIYM [God] that whatever you ask from Him (and this is based on whether you keep His commandments and do those things that “please” Him), you will receive from Him!

IV. BECOME FULLY EQUIPPED THROUGH THE RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]

4. STEP 4: ASK FOR THE RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] (*specifically*)

YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself tells us, “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:9-13)

5. STEP 5: ASK THE RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] FOR YOUR SPECIFIC GIFTS

Remember, it is our Father’s intention to supply you with all the necessary equipment so that you can perform your works of service to Him. And why? So that you, the body of Christ [MASHIACH] may be built up until we *all* reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God [ELOHIYM] and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of our fullness in Christ [MASHIACH].

A. YOUR FIRST GIFT: YAHUSHA [Jesus], HIS GRACE & A REAL FAITH IN HIM

“Whoever believes that YAHUSHA [Jesus] is the MESSIAH [Christ] is born of YAHUAH [God], and everyone who loves Him [the Father] Who begot also loves Him who is begotten of Him” (1 John 5:1). (Not believing this is antichrist in nature.)

And Who is YAHUSHA [Jesus] exactly? Didn't we learn from our previous message(s) that “this is He who came by water and blood—YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Jesus Christ]; not only by water, but by water and blood? And [that] it is the RUACH [Spirit] who bears witness, because the RUACH [Spirit] is truth. For there are three (3) that bear witness in heaven: The Father, The Word, and The RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]; and these three (3) are one. [Yes,] and there are three (3) that bear witness on earth: the RUACH [Spirit], the water, and the blood; and these three (3) agree as one.” (1 John 5:6-8)

B. YOUR GIFTS THAT WILL FOLLOW

6. STEP 6. YOUR CAPTIVITY TO SIN IS NOW HELD CAPTIVE

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of MASHIACH [Christ]’s gift. Therefore, He says: ‘when He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men [and women]’. (Now this [that] He ascended—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fulfill all things).” (Ephesians 4:7-10)

7. STEP 7. YOUR ADDITIONAL GIFTS WILL FOLLOW IN YOUR NEW FREEDOM

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers... (Ephesian 4:11). Any why these positions? These are “for the equipping of the saints [those of you who now *truly* believe in YAHUSHA (Jesus)] for the work of [His] ministry... for the edifying of the body of MASHIACH [Christ]... until we *all* come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of YAHUAH God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of MESSIAH [Christ]; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men [and women], in

the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but [that we], speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is The Head — MASHIACH [Christ]— from Whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesian 4:11-16)

V. YOU ARE AT A CROSSROAD TODAY

Whether you want to believe it or not, you are at a crossroad today, and particularly in this time and place in world’s history. I have come to realize that my own calling was listed in today’s scripture... where it says that YAHUSHA HA’MASHICAH [Jesus Christ], that “He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers to equip [you...] His people for works of service, so that [His body] may be built up.

Do you want to be built up today so that “the body of MASHIACH [Christ] may be built up until we *all* reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God [ELOHIYM]”? Do you want to “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ [MASHIACH]”? Or, do you want to continue on in your present way of worldly living... living life according to your own wisdom, rather than living it within the eternal wisdom of YAHUAH [God]? If you do, then I desire to help you.

You have to decide now, for there is not middle of the road after you have taken the first Step 1 of GETTING TO KNOW YAHUSHA [Jesus] SO YOU’LL STOP SINNING. Right now YAHUSHA [Jesus] is saying, “**Behold, I stand at [your] door and knock. If [you] hear My voice and open the door, [then] I will come in to [you] and dine with [you], and [you] with Me**”. Do you hear His voice now? Have you fully opened your door to Him yet, or are you just peeking out at Him? Maybe there is still something that you are ashamed for Him to see? For “we know if we are of the truth, [He] will assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, [it is that] YAHUAH [God] ... knows all things” (1 John 3:19). Do you hear His voice now? He is saying to you, “**if [you] desire to come after [Me], [then you must] deny yourself [now], and take up you cross, and follow Me**” (Matt. 16:24).

Please don’t worry too much about this. For at your crossroad today, YAHUAH [the LORD] also says, “for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

VI. YOU CAN ABSOLUTELY KNOW YAHUAH [God's] WILL FOR YOU & YOUR FUTURE

Some of you today are in or fear you might soon experience unemployment. Are you seeking YAHUAH [God]'s direction today about where He wants you to serve Him in your job? Or are you seeking your own will? Some of you today are starting to age out of our physical world, feeling your physical weaknesses, your sickness, and the effects of your previously worldly life. Have you given up today, or are you still seeking YAHUAH [God]'s direction in your life? On the other hand, some of you today are feeling that things are pretty good for you, that the world is offering you some light at the end of the tunnel, that you can handle things on your own, and you don't really need YAHUSHA [Jesus] today. If this is you, then I ask you to remember: "do not love the world or the things in the world. [For if you] love the world, the love of the Father is not in you" (1 John 2:15). "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he [or she] who does the will of YAHUAH [God] abides forever (1 John 2:17).

VII. INVITATION TO A BAPTISM OF THE RUACH [Spirit] & CLOSING PRAYER

You'll notice today that I have insisted that each of you accept a handout of today's message. There's a reason for that. You will notice that I have **highlighted seven (7) steps** to help you prepare for YAHUAH [God] to fully equip you. This is so that you can begin to be fully utilized by Him as you go into a new year. As a "teacher" (at a minimum) here today, I implore you to carefully, prayerfully begin taking these seven (7) steps now. For it is when you reach the point where you can say that you have the assurance of your heart before YAHUAH [God] that He no longer condemns you, that you and I can begin to pray and fast together for an outpouring of His Spirit on you. For by then, you will begin to receive the gifts with which He wants to endow you. This will include *His* dream job for you, *His* dream for how He wants to you to find true life after work, whether in your life after work or in your retirement life. I invite you to allow Him to break through the chains that bind you to this world, and find your freedom from its captivity and its allurements.

Then, next week as part of the last Sabbath of the year 2020, I am inviting you to receive a special anointing. This will be for anyone who agrees to commit themselves to these steps. Next week we will review how YAHUAH [God] has led us so far in our lives, and we will commit ourselves to Him as one body, to seek His will and receive His gifts for our lives as we go into the new year.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father,

I pray now that each one here will “seek You while You may be found; that all here will call on You while You are near.

Let the wicked [here today] see their evil ways and thoughts, and forsake them now. Let us turn to You now, O EL-YAHUAH, so that You will have mercy on us and that our ELOHIYM [God] will freely pardon us.

As their teacher today, I submit this petition to you now... in the name of your beautiful and precious Son YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Jesus Christ].

Amen.